



Equestrian Trails



General Information

Horses and other stock are a part of the history and culture at City of Rocks. Over 12 miles of equestrian trails lead to many of the most scenic areas of the reserve. Many sections of trail pass through areas with highly erosional soils. Help protect City of Rocks by staying on marked trails, packing out what you pack in, and by leaving natural features as you found them for others to enjoy. Many of the trails are rocky and traverse steep terrain. High country trails are covered by snow until the middle of May. Check with a ranger or visitor center personnel prior to entering the backcountry for latest conditions. Stock users share trails with hikers and bikers. Horses have the right of way with other users yielding to them.

Horse Camping, Water, and Staging Area

Camping with stock is welcome within the reserve. One improved group horse campsite (site #1) is available for use. The site includes a water trough, corral, and restroom. The site can accommodate up to 25 people and 5 horses. Reservations can be made (up to eleven months in advance) for this site at the park’s visitor center or by calling (208) 824-5519.

Water for horses is provided through spring fed troughs that are located on the North Fork Circle Creek Trail, Tea Kettle Trail, and at Indian Grove. Please see map for exact locations of watering troughs.

A primitive horse staging area is located near the east entrance of the reserve. This area provides adequate space for horse

trailer parking and allows direct access to North Fork Circle Creek Trail. Parking at Boxtop Trailhead and Circle Creek Overlook cannot accommodate horse trailers. Please see map for location of staging area.

From June to September cattle grazing is permitted in some areas. Be prepared to encounter livestock and be courteous of permittee operations. Leave gates as you find them.

Suggested Routes

Half Day - Tea Kettle Loop
5 miles
Tea Kettle Trail is located on the west side of the reserve. Highlights include: two overlooks of the inner city, access to Private Idaho and Nematode. Trailheads are located at Bread Loaves and Elephant Rock. Suggested Route: Enter trail at Bread Loaves. Descend southeast on Tea Kettle Trail and exit trail at Elephant Rock. Connect into reserve road and ride north - west to campsite 62, follow trail back to the Bread Loaves.

Half Day - Stripe Rock Loop
5 miles
Stripe Rock Loop begins on the east side of the reserve. Highlights include: views of Steinfell’s Dome, Circle Creek Overlook, access to Building Blocks, Bucket Land, Stripe Rock, and Cyclops. Suggested Route: Enter trail at Horse Staging Area. Travel northwest on access trail and road to Circle Creek Overlook. Join North Fork Circle Creek Trail, complete Stripe Rock Loop and travel back to staging area.

Full Day - Trail System Loop
12 miles
Experience all that City of Rocks has to offer on a full day ride, from sagebrush flats to high aspen groves with pinyon - juniper forest found in-between. Suggested Route: Enter trail at Horse Staging Area. Travel northwest on access trail and road to Circle Creek Overlook. Join North Fork Circle Creek Trail and follow trail to Indian Grove. From Indian Grove travel to Bread Loaves, join Tea Kettle Trail and follow to Elephant Rock. Take reserve road to Boxtop Trailhead. Follow Boxtop Trail to join back with North Fork Circle Creek Trail. Follow trail to Circle Creek Overlook and back to staging area.